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Presenting part one of our
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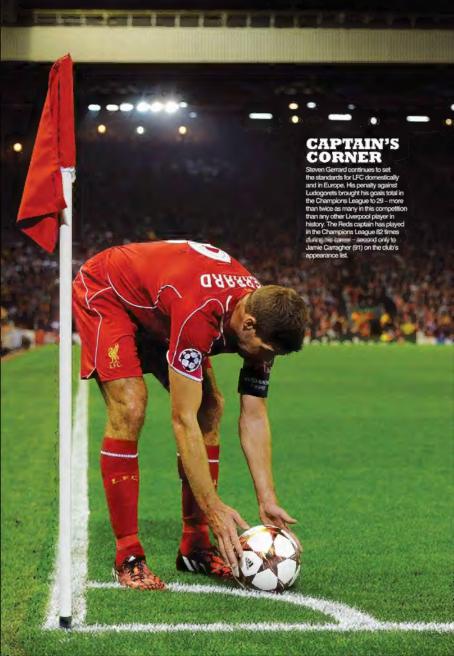
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Champions League;
meet Mark Maddox,
an extraordinary Red;
win an alvesome new
LFC book; Foundation
news; official LFC gear;
David Price column











Wander in the City That Never Sleeps

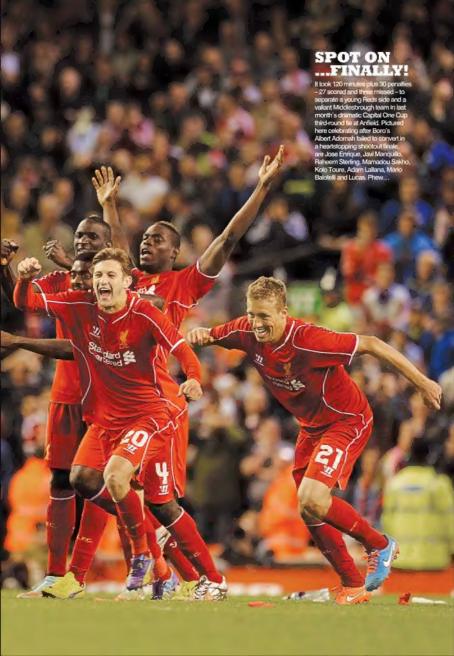
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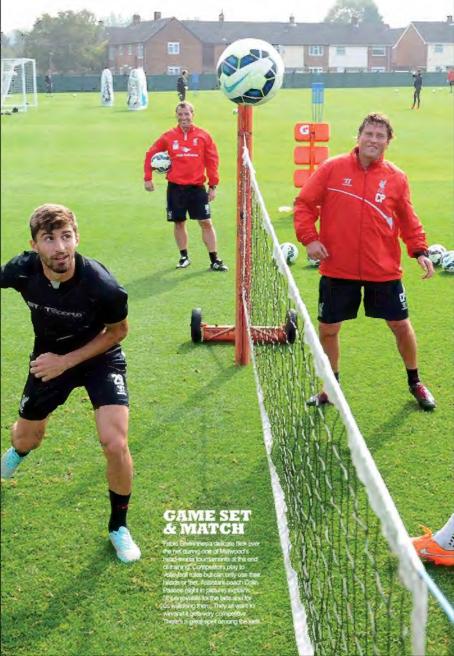




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Deniel's letter to the fens

"Liverpool has been such a big part of my life and my family's lives for so long that leaving is extremely difficult. My temily and I have

My family and I have always felt your backing, it is something unique to this football club, this city and our supporters - it's been a privilege to have represented this club and

I'm forever thankful for everything I have learnt during my time here. When

I joined this great club, I came here as a 21-yearold boy with a lot to learn.
Liverpool has helped me
grow up and shape me
into the man I am today.
I'm proud of who I've
become and I wouldn't

be the person I am today without my time at Liverpool."

GREAT DANE

A fond farewell to one of Liverpool FC's finest defenders

ong-serving detender Daniel Agger reil Liverpool FC two days before the close of the summer transfer window having made 232 appearances during eight-end-a-haff seasons at the club.

Upon Daniel's armal at Anfield in January 2006 from Brondby, the manager that signed him recognised his potential to be a long-term signing. "He could be a Liverpoor camtre-back for the next 10 years." Refael Benitez speculated. Within 18 months Aggus had established himself in the starting XI. atthough persistent injury problems meant it Look him more than four years to clock up 100 games in a rod simit. At home in the city he invested in a number of businesses and conhinually spote of his contentment at the club-"I don't want to play for any other team," he build the inagezine in 2011.

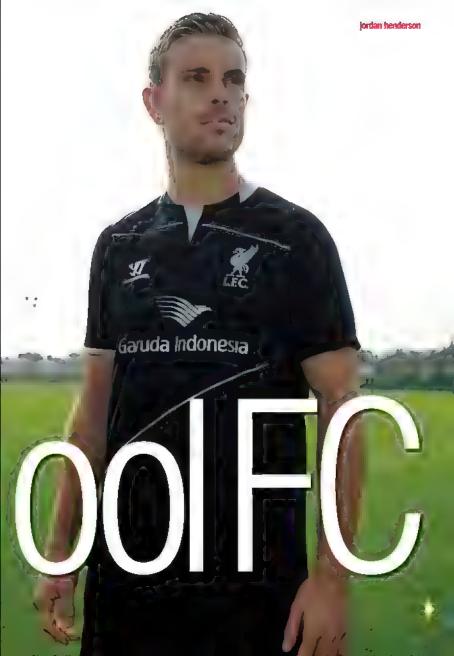
Later that year he isunched his own foundation in Denmark to help children from dissolvantaged backgrounds.

In 2012/13 Daniel played in more Premier League matches (35) than in any of his previous set full seasons as an LFC player and addied three more goals to take his total into double figures. Such was his passion for the club he had YNNA* attooed onto his frouddies. He reponed Grondby in Denmark, explaining that despite more fucrative offers, protecting his legacy all Liverpool meant more to him.



Jordan Henderson arrived at Antield in June 2011 as a cub, eight days before his 21st birthday. Three years later he pulls on the red jersey as vice-captain. He talks to Simon Hughes about learning from the boss and Stevie, growing up in public and

the future of Market 1998. The future of the



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"My attitude remains the same: to try to help the team win football matches"

Jordan, you are now Liverpool's vice-captain - how does it feel?

If a great honour to be given an important rote at a club the size of this, with all its history. If sides ancouraging that the manager has given me the extra responsibility. All can do is keep doing what five been doing and look to support Steve [Carrard] in any way than the club of the sides of the sides of the sides of the sides. As a side of the same is written that the same I just want to by my best and help the learn to write to but all matches the same in year.

Rodgers break the news to you?

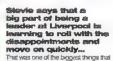
We had a meeting in his office here at Method before the Aston Villa game I wanted to focus on Villa and only lold inly lamily and close hends, attended to the before it come out in the press. They were over the moon But lited lasty, it won't change how am Just becapital now doesn't mean I'm going to be capital in the hunner i'm not lasing anything for grated.

The menager explained to me that digwen the digwen the vide-captancy a lot of conscleration, but the fider to put any pressure or me, he wants me to crack on and carry on playing the wary, have been for unespool and hopelusy grow and emprove again over time.

It gives the trible of pade live done if for England Under-21s and tive liked it. The thed to lead by example: That's what Pitry to do here. Salating a Starting qual-with Issue-resides

You seem to share a close relationship with the manager...

It works both ways. Goining me the wice-explaincy is a sign he fluids me thirst him. I've got a loft to trank him for really in the way his simproved me as player and also as a person off the field. The manager's got a brilliam! realtainship with all the players here if you asked anyone else they would probably give you the same response as fave. They dispeak highly of him.



It is come the second of the s

What other leasure have you learnt from the captain since arriving at Liverpool? Savies probely not only the best captain for Liverpool and before with





England but in the game isself Being around him has benefited me a lot. If is been fulge Every day, watch him it is his desire to improve He's been the best and most influential player here for such a long time but his still wants to get better. He doesn't take anything for garnfell He takes training neally seriously and sels the tone for how things should be Everyone else follows.

He does a lot of things that people on the outside don't always see On the picth he sia great feater. You can see the goalts, the passes and the backlish he malles the way he inspires the team. But off the pitch he conducts himself believilty for. He's a greatment of the person and everybody in the squad knows they can go for him. The most important thing is, he puts the team in front of everybody else including himself. The most important hims is the learn.

You're in your fourth season as a Liverpool player. What have you learnt since signing from Sunderland?

If has been fough at times, but that's the way it is in lootball. You have highs then you have lows. It can be like that week to week. You've got to deal with negatives and positives in the same way. Never get too high or too low cluring the course of a season, then use a bit of the summer to take slock. You've got to stay in a positive mindset and learn from everyfring. Pleat as though his tearn't a lot and matured a cot. Hopefully can continue to improve by listening to the people around me and putting my own stamp on things it's important to be your own person.

How strong mentally do you have to be to succeed at Liverpool? Uverpool is a huge club as everyone strows. Every single game the stadium's are sold out. I've been on four summer tours to Asia, Australia and Junitiad States. The interest is massive. It is overwhelming really. The dub has a worldwide residt which few dubs in the world have. You can walk down the street in a city anywhere in the world and there will be someone wearing a Leverpool shirt. All of that means there is a big responsibility. Everyone is watching you. Nearly all of the Premier, angue matches are on TV.

"You should never get too high or too low - just try to stay positive" Balling with Sharberton Divisions from the so you aran't just playing for the people inside the stadium but the people in their homes.

Everyone has an opinion. Maybe at other clubs the locus servi here as much. If you have a bard game once in a while. It gets total and it's forgotten quickly. All turnpool the pressure is on every moment of every single game, you can't hade. But I love all of that. You have to deal with the pressure in your own way, it's wirel you work hard for 1a be in the pressure environments.

Did you ever doubt that you'd reach this stage at Liverpool, where you're vice-captain and an important player?

I've never thought too fair a head to be homest, you can't afford to. Life is too short. You focus on the life steps what you need to do at the time wasn't always in the uverpool bann so my list aim was to get a place. Once if achieved that my aim was to stay there and hopefully grow being a part of a successful side. It's the same now only think about the need game.

know it's a cliche, but that slall you can do Every gathe is important, every training session it y to give everything, in training and take that into games use a lot of video analyse after games to try and learn where can improve. Then start again the following day.

The Liverpool crowd loves a player who gives everything - in that something you've tapped into?

I've always been a player who's fried to close the opposition down. From a young age I've worked as hard as possibly can. When you're a kid. you





"You learn to channel last year's hurt and use it to drive you next time"

charge about all over the place, trying to influence things. When you move ento the professional game, you can't always do that because there are tactics to consider

The way this Liverpool team pressesis very tactical. The manager has helped me understand where and when I should press If you do it at the wrong times it can affect the team So you've got to be dever about it.

Lest seeson, 2013/14, was a big one for you, ween't it?

It was a big season for everyone. We umped five places in the league and nearly ended up winning it. Nobody on the outside predicted weld do as well as that, nobody. There were lots ol great garnes where everybody played well: some brilliant team performances. Quite soon into the season it definitely left different to the previous seasons.

I thought we'd be right up there at the end, fighting for the title. believed. we could win the Premier League throughout the season. So there was disappointment at the end. It was hard to take mitially. When you get so close, it's bound to be that way That's life; you've got to get on with things. Wa pushed Manchester City. ad the way

But we can't dwell on that now The hurl will always stay with you. when you walk off the pach on the last day of the season, knowing it has been so close but ultroately we haven't been guite good enough. You THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF T you on again. You have to use that to motivate yourself and believe that one day, we'll win the Premier League.

The young players in the squad will be bette for the experience...

Of course they will. There's a lot of young players here who've been together for a while now. We're quite close as a squad There are [young] ads like Raineem, Flanc, then myself and Studge who are a little bit older. We all feel the responsibility of getting results to take the club forward by winning trophies. That's what excites me most. We've got a young team If we continue to work in the right way we can win trophies. The future is very bright.



Despite being 24 which is still quite young - do you feet file you are one of the senior players?

I still feel young, if you ask the lads. they'll probably say that off the field Larr young. But at the same time I'm a father now and that helps make you more mature as a person When became a father it was an amazing feeling. It helps when I go home and see my little girl. It puts a smile on my lace. No matter how bad things might be elsewhere - no matter what has happened in a game she'll make me feel better. It gives you more perspective and more responsibility as a person. + think that reflects on the pitch too, it helps give you balance and focus

You've had your first experience of Champions League football at Anfield. What was it like?

It was brilliant. The atmosphere is always good at Anfield, but there is something different about it during right garnes. I think it's both the home and away tams. They both make a contribution. Our supporters level off that and it becomes a cauldron Being in the Champtons. Jusque is very existing. We go into any geme believing we can win.

I can't believe it's already been 10 seasons since the club last won the competition it was one of the best games I've seen. Stevie was the capitain and leader then and he's still the capitain and leader. Whet am

"I watched Istanbul and now I'm the same age as Stevie then, 24"

unbellevable performance that was by him. To go or 3-0 down at half-time to opponents like AC Milar and end up as a winner as a player new to can appreciate such how hard that is to achieve was 1-1 or 1-5 at the time istanbul happened and now firm here as a term-meter of Stevies at the age he was then. 2-4 it is pretly mad when you think about it it melius you realise anything can rappen.





Henderson's 2013/14 stats

Jordan went from starting just under half of Liverpool's league games in 2012, 13 to being named in the starting XI for all the 35 pames that he was available

While his passing accuracy stood at an impressive 87 per count, the devise 18 per cent, the devise 18 per cent of the field his success rate increased by him per cent. He also revealed 60 chances for team-matter with senen assets at chance created every 51 minutes.

Accumine diaforative zone passance 673. Total deberative zone passance 779. Defensibles-Sone passa computation 92%. Total attaching-zone passances 12.64. Accumine strucking-zone passances 27%. Accumine final-bird passance 57%. Accumine final-bird passance 57%. Total final-bird passance 17%.

ANFIELD



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A to Of Anfield

Marine by the last said the best of the said of

PART 1



years ago a quest leafy address in the boom-port off Liverpool, now home to one of the most farmous venues in the world of sport. Back then the reacterts were well-to-do merchants and barnkers who bull fairey viles. todges and outlages with sweeping views of the Mersey and its shipping look closely and you'll still find one.

look closely and you'll still find one or two of their original homes in the shadow of the current stadium.

The first Anfield Road Stand opened in 1903, around two decades after football first began to be played. here in 1965, the year that uverpool. Football Club won the FA Cup for the first time ever in its history, it was rebuilt and given a root. And in 1982 the standing terraces were stopped class a state of the company spales were installed. The upper tier was added as recently as 1998. Plans have now been proposed to increase the stand's capacity by around 4 800 seats as part of a wider expansion of the stadium taking the overall attendance to just under 60,000.



ATTE NOM

the highest of all time at Artified is 61 905 for unexpood's FA Cup fifth-tound be against Wowerhampton Wanderers on Saturday 2 February 1962. The highest in the league is 58.75 for a 2-2 draw with Chelsea on Tuesday 27 December 1984. The sague is Europe 55 104 for the LIEFA Cup semi-final second leg with Johan Chuyffs Barbalono on Wednesday 14 April 1978; drawn 1 i with the Redis going through to the final or averagoods.







And for ATMOSPHERE

times as well as fashons may change in football, but all Anfield the pride and passion remains the same Games against big rivals still generate an intensity immatched elsawhere, and the litarry of deafening occasions in European competition is legend: Intar-Mate in 1965, Si Elsame in 1977 while those hudry enough to be present at the sound leg of the 2005 Champtors League sem-final with Chelsea will

"The fans are our 12th man and often a massive advantage for us" vouch for an Antield atmosphere as good if not better than any which had preceded if down the years

Not that the club or players nor the lars themselves should ever take in for granted. Just receipt sleen for granted Just receipt sleen of which is should be should b

near the Champions League final on each obsasion. The fairs are out. 12th man and when they are charged up, opponents can't dear with it. Evis seen some excellent fears these and players make decisions they wouldn't normally because of the noise it's such a massive advantage and can't emphasise enough how much I apprincable it as captain."





a for **BOOT ROOM** recalled today by the epocymousty-named sports cafe at the stadium, ringimally sited under the Marn Stand where the current press moon is, and forever associated with an Anfield dynasty founded by Bill Shanley where Liverpool FC's linest hours were plotted and planned.

As it goes, Shanks, whose arrival was the Big Bang of LPC's universe, was anything but a Boot Room man "Occasionally he'd show his lace." recalls Roy Evans, one of his deciples and a future Reds boss himself. "But it was Bob (Pateley) and Joe (Figgan) and Ronnie (Moran) they started that side of it, it was

"We were there every day. Going back 30-odd years we used to come in on Sundays regularly from ten to 12. It was nothing fancy, just a little from that we had to hang our coats and chat about football over a cup of tea or sometimes a beer."

It was also, of course, strictly private, although opposition managers were always welcome for a postmatch clinik. Even the players were prohibited. Any caught lottering outside suffered the wath of Moran

And all opium for the Kop's masses. While the fans could only wonder what secrets this most scared of sites might contain, the select few who cained access described a shabby room 12ft by 12ft reeking of dubbin and invinent, its floor space occupied by tatty kit hampers which doubled up as seats its walls plastered with faded pholographs. and pin-up calendars. & cupboards stacked with notepads, Rothmans Football Yearbooks and drinks Jike its patrons it was deliberately unremarkable 8-fitting tracksuits, muddy boots, mundane meeting places. Its demolition in 1993. was pure legend lodder

"Bob, Joe and Ronnie started it - the room was always their little domain"

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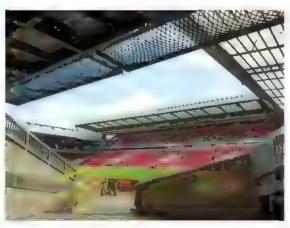
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IS for CENTENARY STAND

which replaced the old singlebered Kemiyn Stand in 1992 to commemorate Liverpool Football Club's 100th birthday. As well as its sealing there are executive boxes. various iounges, a TV studio and police operations centre

And for CAPACITY today the Centenary's is 11.411 (plus 344 in executive boxes), then 12,390 for the Kop, 9,118 for the Artfeld Road Stand, 8,575 for the Main Stand, and 2.454 for the Paddock.





And for CHANGES currently around the football ground as part of the area's regeneration plan-Construction work adjacent to the stadium has altered pedestrian access for supporters on matchdays this season, while work begins on redeveloping the Main Stand

And for CURLETT CUP

the DfY trophy famously paraded around Anfield when the team clinched the League title with a 5-0. victory over Arsenal on Saturday 18 April 1964 (the real silverware was unavailable for presentation)

The day was reported thus by the Liverpool Echo correspondent of the time. The elever returned to the field almost immediately to a repturous reception from the terraces, and a standing ovation from everyone in the stands. The roar when they ran in front of the Kop increased by 50 per cent I don rithink I have ever seen. such an Anfield scene. It almost balled description by its warmth and intensity

Made by a family of local fans the Curietts, from one of their mum a old vases with the top of a bennister used for a lidt the trophy was back at Anfield for the team's 50th reunion party in November 2013.

"The team returned to the field to a rapturous reception from fans" And lor CONCERT Sir Paul McCartney it up the stadium at Antield with a special gig to celebrate the city of Liverpool's status as European Capital of Culture in 2008. Almost 40,000 spectators packed into the famous venue to see the former Beatle supported by The Zutons and Kaiser Chiefs









CICKED OF MIDE

at the end of last saxson unerpool FC unveiled its stadium expension plans with detailed proposals for the Main Stand and outline proposals for the Antield Road Stand.

Public consultation and exhibitions on the proposals sook place with the dub asking for residents, lans and local businesses to give their views as part of the planning application. The design proposals for the redevelopment of the Main Stand could add an add@cnal 8,500 seats taking its capacity to nearly 21,000 and overall Anfield capacity to around 54,000 Incorporating the dub crest ento the proposed Main Stand's Landing Para also include a two-storey podium and a carefully designed deister which will become the new home for the Hillsborough Memorial, The Main Stand will open onto a wide public concourse which will link the stadium. into the wider Anfield area, while the outline proposals for the Anfield Road Stand provide for an increase in its capacity of around 4,800 seats.

Ian Ayre, the football club is managing director, says. We started this journey just over 18 months ago and a lot of work has already been done. There is still an incredible amount to do, but good progress has, been made so far and we are proud to be abite to more! our other.

DIT

September's showdown with Eventon was the 96th Liverpool-Eventon match in the league at Antield: We've gone to press with this issue of the magazine before the game was played, so we'd best leave if at that





SIGNEURO NIGHTS

specifically UEFA Champions League nights, back at Anfield after a fine-passence Matchday one's home finate with PFC Ludioporets Razgrad look the total aggregate crowd in have witnessed UCL encounters at Anfield beyond the two million-mark. To date 2.013.388 lans have now seen CL garnes at L4

Ahead of the Ludoporets game. Radis boss Brendan Rodgers spoke of his own evolutional at the prospect. Thave head the privilege to experience European nights as manager of this dub already, in the Europa weegue in my first season here. have also been rotunual to expenence what Antheid is like on a Champions League evening, albeit from the position of opposition cooking staff member.

There aren't words to do justice to the atmosphere created inside Anfield, under the lights, on these evenings it has to be experienced to truly approaces the power of the Anfield crowd and its affluence on the game teel. The fans) are a vital part of our fearn for this new adventure and your backing will be crudal in helping us face the chellenges and tests ahead."

Centre-back Marnadou, Sakhro adds "The atmosphere is very special when there is a Champtons, Lasque match at Anlield. Marry players say that this is the locatiall stadium with the best crowd in the world.

STREET, STREET

BATURDAY from the Kop's vast repertors, with this opening vertex: Every other Saturday's me hall-day-off And its off to the metich go. You'll see me walking down the Arrifect Road. Me and me old pal Joe Wis love to see the lasses with their red scarkes on We love to hear the Kopites roan. But idon't have to tell you that basel of all. We love to see the uverpool soppospool.

"Words can't do justice to Anfield under the floodlights"





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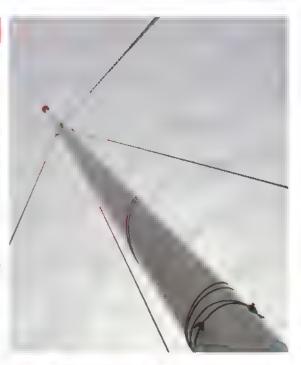




is for FLACES more more majestic than the 100ft x 65ft labour of love created by fan Frank Graceffa. The first one he made was for the last game on the standing Kop. against Norwich City in May 1994, and "things just progressed from there." he explains. "The current flag first appeared for the derby of 2000 and we've added to it as we've gone along, with images of trophies and managers. The European Cups are 10ft high and the figures are 16ft. People sometimes ask why there aren't any players on the llag, only managers, I always say that players come and go but managers make the history. If you look closely you'll notice they're all holding each other's trophies to signify continuity through the ages.

SCINFLAGPOLE

CORMER (Extended) meeting-place outside the Spion Kop near the junction of Walton Breck Road and what used to be Kernlyn Road, and home to the top mast of the SS Great Eastern, the massive Iron sailing ship built by isambard Kingdom Brunel in the 1850s



PORTRIES

Liverpool were unbeaten at Anfield from the last week in September till the last week of Azırıl But even that achievement pales a little in companson to the 85-game unbeaten run all home from January 1978 to January 1981 Terry McDermott, part of the all-conquering team back then. recalls. You were expected to go out and steamroller everyone, but sometimes it didn't happen that way You diget teams coming to Anfield with everyone behind the ball. Sometimes II didn't matter we'd break them down. Other times we'd have to work harder perhaps score the winner in the dying. seconds. That's the Liverpool way

The run was brought to an end by bottom-of-the-table Leicester City with a 2-1 victory. Foxes midfielder tan Wilson, later to play for Everton. remembers "the shock on the faces of the Liverpool players they couldn't believe they'd lost. We got a standing evation at the end, typical of Liverpool supporters. People in Laicester still talk about the match to this day "



OHHHH JIMINIY OHHHH

Cult Antield hero Jimmy Case was never going to write just a 'normal' autobiography, as he explains to Simon Hughes

Jimmy - why an eutobiography now?

Over the years I've been asked loads of itmes by deferral journalists to do one "two never lanced" il But I turned 60 in Mary and figured it would be at good time to linally get something down. As you get oblder you, understand file a little bit more. It becomes easier to reflect. I reaksed how much football has changed and thought it was important to fail my story.

There are a lot of player autobiographies acts of arter! loses?

I'd liken my story to John Adnidge's Viewere both lads from the south end of the otly who had is go around the houses a bit to get to where we warred to be. Our fathers used to have a pint logether. There are some good autoblographies and some not be good ones. Mine and a game-bygame account of my career. It's more about healings and takes. There's a lot of south in hear that people don't

"It's not a game-bygame kind of book, it's about feelings and tales" know about. For instance if explains why lieft Liverpool under a bit of a cloud even brough it didn't want to Then there is the different table about how flower fixegeain got a black eye able the Europeair. Cup final in Pionne Personally I like to invest of masted autobiolographies. I'm a big fam of End, Clapkin Football's my life but it's good to escape and read something else.

What is unique about yours?

My path into lootball. suppose I went from parks tootball to writing the European Cup in a few allon years. There aren't many spajers who have done trust. I didn't sign for Liverpool until. wan 17 and the experiences before playing for South Liverpool in non-league, sat me up for fills. They influence the person I am loday.

Are there still players in nonleague football good enough to make the grade?

All you need is a bit oil patience that counts for the cube. The players and the scouts for the cube. The players and the scouts, Merseysiste remains a hobest of lootball. The standard is really high: I was a little neigh around the edges and just needed a bit of guidance. There was another is called uchniny Moore who played with me for the Blue Union (feam) or Garston and in another little, with

a bit more luck, a know for a fact he would've been a professional if a break rad come his wey at the right time. Football is not an exact science and don't let anyone ever fell you that. I'm commod there are still beenagers out there well the ability ofnes who can fourish dipwer the copposition?

The higgest problem is dealing with deappointment. Any expro will tell vou they have received introduction along the way. Even with all the ability and the world them are bried in the world them are bried in a players a carrier when it doesn't go for another world them are bried in a players a carrier when it doesn't go for another world the empty with the emporty you're halfway them.

When I was 14 I was told by
Forn Saurtidas (LFC
club, sound) wasn't
glocklenough for
Liverpool schoolboys.
Nearly everyone who
got picked for the
schoolboys went to a
league alub Liverpool
Everton both Manchester
learns, Stockport County
or Whedham. Then at 16
I was told wasn't good
enough for Burnley by Dave

or Wheelam. Then at 15
1 was told wasn't good
enough for Bumley by Dave
Menningon listisely menager of
Southampion) states hy menager of
Southampion) states at A 17
1 signed for Unespect on Tiom's
recommendation. Then liste on in
my career Dave was involved at
Southampion when I went there
and we got on very well it just
shows you how things can
change if you hang in there.

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"I could hit the ball without backlift, like Bruce Lee's oneinch punch"

Why did your own fortunes change?

I gut e-rything to one side and staned agrain with a trush mind, sorted out my apprenticeship and that gave ma a bit of security away from footbal! I was tood by Livespool (at 14) that I was too small and Burnley said the same thing. I was 5ft bin at the time and hald a quick growth spunt to around 5ft 9in. I did a bit of weight training and grow muscle on my other. That gave me a bit of conference.

I progressed into South Liverpoof's first team in the Northern Phemier League where I played with real men, against real men. There were lots of competitive derbies against sides like Manne and Skelmersdale United You had to fight to win, it loughered me up.

One winter right we were playing Mattock Town at the old Holly Park ground. It was freezing, pouring down with vairs - I was pulling mud out of my heir the plath was a bog IN of many people were watching so I noticed this old felta wearing a fet cap with a dog on a lead who walked around the permeter of the pitch, meeting me by line comer flag. I went to take a comer and he started taking to ma

He said: Airight Jimmy so I just said. Alright I was thinking, we're 2-1 down here and he wants to have a chat. As I went to knock the bot into the area he goes. Would you like a later with Liverpoot? I was trying to concentrate and he was pulting me of so told him where to go, using a few swear-words. A tew week later alter a terminal processor, South Liverpoot's manager. Also Hampson called ne with his office Little eit in how but the felax was Tom Saunders (dich'i recognise him because is was so dan't.



What was the biggest illumental and South Liverpool?

Evenything it may first week at Liverpool, I went shin-to-shin with Romes Mozan, who was the loughest of men. He ween't happy - screaming. You're not playing alshouse lootball now, you know'l I really caught him. I hought he of heve it in for me after that. But "think he respected me instead." The biggest difference was the physical presence of the players everybody was fifter than me, it was trail to keen up.

Liverpool signed mis for \$500. When Skyl Shankly offered mis a contract, I feat to say no because I wartiest to finish my epipremiciship as an electrician, says in case the football didn't work out. It meant that for two years I was semi-pro at Liverpool and full-brins at Evans Medical on Spetia Boulevant it dig or and clock on at work, at dam on a Monday, clock out at nine, then head up to Anfield and get the bus glown to Metwood with the lads.



Matchesty programme one in March 1979.

I'd do my training, feed back to Antield have a bite to est, and when everyone else went home. I'd go into work agean from 2pm until 5pm in the factory. It was tiring, I didn't think could compete with the other players on a level every day, but Liverpool were good with mise and in persisted with the apprenticeship. although couldn't well to linish and have a proper crack at being a locatile if twise all worth it.

Many of your 48 goals for LFC were scored from long range...

I was inturnate. I had quite a rigid technique, technique, i dian't take long to get a shot away. It was like Bruce Lee with a one-inch prunch - could stab the bell without much back-lift. Witch meant - could generate power. Pacif it when was a lick. I was one of the smallest in the school but was saled to take goet-hords for the reespet. The bellis were heavy and the couldn't get the kick out of the penalty box. I was dearing the healtway line.





Famounly you became good males with fallow midfielder Reds Ray Kennedy

- why was that? We shared a room together on away trips with Liverpool for eight years. I started off with Neft-back! Joey Jones because we were around the same age. Joay didn't travel one weakend and Ronnie [Moran] asked me if I lanced rooming with Ray instead. We hill it off straightaway. We were competible. maybe because he was from the North East and they have a similar attitude and sense of humour to us Scousers. He stood no nonsense. and, ske me, he could have an argument with anyone knew could learn of him too. He was a seasoned professional. He'd aiready done. the double with Arsenal (in season 1970/71], taking everything in his stride if I had any concerns, knew Locald confide in him. Very quickly we were big buddles and it is a Inencisho that exists locary

New Liverpool signic funct in May 1973

"I learned from Ray, he stood no nonsense and took things in his stride"

Was it hard leaving Liverpool?

I clidn't want to go [br 1981 but Both Paaley put the question to me hobe, and when that happers you lonow you're not in the manager's plans. There are a few reasons why it happened but you can mad about them in the book otherwise benefit be nothing else left to tell! played professionally until was 41 and emjoyed a good canser after leaving Liverpoot. Howelf its both Brighton and Southersploto But aft ceally wanted to do was play for Liverpool When I was there I had offest trantiblian chose but hamed them down.

As a three-time European Cup winner at Liverpool, has continental competition changed much since your time?

It has "The exposume is huge now. The tootball is a list quicker and the good tasms know how to slow things down to their pace. When we won it, there was an element of mystery about a lot of the teams because there wasn's the accessibility or the money to send scoots abroad regulative. Players didn't move between countries as much. Boosules if was know-hout all the way through, 1 think the pressure was greater then too. You had to be in all to win it. The pressure was on straightway, from game one. It was compressed from the way of compression from the way of compression from the way of compression from the way of compression.

What does it take for a team to go far in Europe?

Expenence. We don't have much of that at the moment with only. Steven Genrard Skriet. Luces and Johnson still around from the tast time we were in the Champions League. When I joined the team in the 70s leveryone etse had played in Europe before it was totally different to a First Division game. The others pulled me through that there had been to a first processor.

they knew how to win from certain positions. They recognised a studdon and how to change it if they needed to

We apprecised that sometimes you had to go to places like Banelona and make if an avikul speciable for the crowd. We were prepared to do it in my first season, we wan the UEFA Cup and that gave us the confidence to go and win the European Cup a ferry years little. We could win playing little from the county to the county of the playing first flowing footbast. You have to find a way to writte game.



Jimmy's autobiography Hard Case is published on 2 October 2014





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Euro Zone

It's a return to the Champions League after five years - but there's still plenty of experience

Glen Johnson

The England luli-back has played in 18 UEFA Champions League features, including three for Liverpool In 2003/04 he made his JCI, debut for Chelses against MSK Zilina in Slovakia before scoring in the return leg. two days after his 19th birthday Glen faatured in nine Champions League matches that season as Chaisea progressed to the semi-finals. the following season, 04/05 the played another six times as the Blues once again reached the last four. Having played in the goalless draw with Liverpool at Stamford Bridge, he was an unused sub in the epic semi-final

Then came three group appearances for unerpool in 2008/10. Invice against Debracen VSC and away to Forentina. before the Reds switched to the Europa League.

second leg at Anfield





Kalid Tourn

Ivory Coast international defender Kolo is a veteran of eight UEFA Champions League campaigns with Arsenai and Manchester City He was part of the Gunners team that reached the 2006 final against Barcelona but ended up on the losing side as Barca triumphed 2-1 in Paris. late goals from Samuel Eloio (now with Evertoni and Juliano Selletti finally settling the match.

He also played in the 2007/08 quarter-final malches against Uverpool which saw the Reds progress 5-3 on aggregate loflowing a 4-2 second leg win here at Antield (Hyypia, Torres, Genard and Babel getting the home side's goals) and the following year's semi-final where they lost to Manchester United His most recent appearance in the competition came for Manchester City against Bayern Munich at the Alianz Arenz in September 2011 The Bavanans prevailing 2-1 on the night.



Dejan Levren

He appeared in two Chang Lescue compaigns for Olympique Lyonnels in 2010/11 and 11/12

Dejan mede his siebut in a 1-0 Notrie win against Schalles 84 is September 2012 and also featured In gemes against Hupcel Tel Aviv und St. Berilios. He then played in a Paused of 16 Se against Real Machid: 4:1-1 draw in France followed by a 5-0 distant in the Bernstey.

Twake months later Lyon again come through their group phase, finishing as runners-up to Fina but ahead of Alax and Disenso Ziggula, Dejun triased the Round of 18 ties against APOID, which ended with the Cypricis progressing to the quester-linets following a: penalty sheot-out.





Javier Manquillo

A neck injury sustained in a Madrid delty livroest the full-back to mass the latter part of Alleston Madrid's run to the UEFA Champions League final test season. Prior to that setback Javier had twice been involved in the match day squad for the world's most presipous obb tournament.

Ho was an unused substitute when Dego Simeone's side drew 1 away ad Zenti Si Petersburg, And when FC Porto travelled to the Estadio Voente Caderon he was in the team that won 2-0 meaning that the Spanish side topped Group G with an unbeaten record.





Minmundou Salbbo

Season 2012/13 saw Paris Saint-Germain FC return to the JEFA Champions League after an absence of eight years, and the Parisians went some way to making up for lost time. by reaching the quarter-linals. They were unfortunate to exit via away-goals at the hands of Barcelona.

Mamadou captained the side for a group match at FC Porto and made two further appearances in the Round of 16 victory over Valencia. He missed the subsequent tie with Barca.





Cinnial Sturridge

Daniel aiready has a Champions League winners medal in 2012 he was on the bench for Cheisea's spot-kick wirt over Bayern Munich in the lines in Germany

For the bulk of that campaign he was a regular name on the teamsheet in Europe, while the previous year he'd registered his first goals in the tournament- scoring away to MSK Zilina then at home to the Slovakian side (along with follow future Fled. Glen Johnson)

Sturridge had already played twice for Cheisea in the 2012/13 lournament. so he was cup-tied for the JEFA Europa League when he joined Liverpool in January 2013

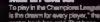


Fabio Borini

The striker was rust 8 and a regular in Chelsea's reserve side when manager Carlo Ancelotti named his fellow Italian in their JEFA Champions League squad for the 2009/10 campaign. A role as an unused sub in the opening group game with FC Porto was followed by a tournament debut in a home tie with APOEL of Cyprus.







is the cheers for every player," the centre-back has said. That hope became a reality two months after this. Stovakian joined Livespool front Zonit St Palershung in the Junuary transfer window of 2008. He ran out at the San Siro where a fine Fernando Tomes goel surned a 1-0 victory for Fish Benime's team over Poisson Mancini's Internazionale Milano,

Mortin became a regular in the LPC alde their reached the last four that seeds, and also the town that progressed to the quarter-limits a year later. In total he's made 16 appearances for the Redg-in the toleroment.





The Brazilian midfielder's LFC debut in the competition came back in August 2007 French side Toulouse were the visitors to Anfield in the qualifying round of that year's lournament and Lucas replaced Momo Sissolio in the second half of Liverpaol's 4-0 second-leg watery

He's made 16 appearances for the Reds in the competition, including standout performances over two legs against Inter Milan in the first knock-out round of 07/08, and Real Madrid at the same stage in 2008/09.

That season he scored his only UEFA Champions League goal to date in the thrilling 4-4 draw with Chelsea al Stamford Bridge in a quarter final second leg



Emre Can

When Emre signed for the club in the summer former Reds midfielder Dietmar Hamann noted: "Il you play six or seven games in the Champions Laague - lest season Bayer Leverkusen got into the knockout stages. Then you've got to be ready to play for any team in the lownament.

As Didi says, the 20-year-old enjoyed some valuable expenence during 2013/14. Operating in a number of different positions, he was regularly involved as Sami Hyvpia s team progressed to the last 16 where they were eliminated by PSG





Lazar Markovic

The Serbian winger 20, has already been involved in three UEFA Champions League campaions. The first two came during his time al Partizan Belgrade, in 2011 12 he helped his side ease past Macedonian side FK Shkendija in the second. qualifying round before they were eliminated by Genk. The next year followed a similar pattern as Partizan comfortably defeated Valetta of Malta before losing both legs of a third-round be with AEL Limassol of Gypnus

A move to Benfica in 2013 ensured that Lazer played in the group stages for the first time. He featured in five fectures as they finished third behind PSG and Olympiacos.







The Brazilian has tasted Champions asgue action in the blue and black pas of Inter Milan. He feetuned In six general for interduring the 2010/11 campaign, including two inst Tottenheim. He made le sub's appearance in the erter-final against Schalke IM, linal 10 minutes in Germany. This ge owl -semep quarp ee Trabachapor and the other ag CSKA Mostre in the Sun Si





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It takes time adjusting to a new club and country - but it's worth it



nen I first amved in England in 1998 aiready knew I language. The fact that Kenny Dalglish was my manager at Newcastle and Terry McDermott was his assistant only reinforced it to me. as they obviously both speak English but in very different ways

Fd studied some English at school unfortunately that was nothing like how people spoke. And then there was the Geordia accent to take into account too. Initially it was a real structile. had lessons. I listened to the radio and watched TV - it all made a difference

Everpool obviously brought in a number of players from abroad during the summer and my main advice: for them is to learn the language as quickly as possible. How a player approaches that can depend on how committed they are to the transfer If they really want to succeed they'll do everything needed to make it possible

I was fully committed to doing well in England Despite being a regular in the Bayerr Munich team and an International. Helt that I wasn't going to fulfill my potential there. I thought people still viewed me as a feld who would stay at the club forever. I wanted to improve and linew moving abroad would help me la

So I was always going to give my all to become a success in the Premier League and a big part of that was learning the language also reasoned that if a club was going to pay my wages the least could do was be able to communicate with everyone there

Quickly realised that I couldn't live the same life as I had in Germany I was in a new country and things were obviously different. TV was just one example. I watched British TV

"From my experience fans might want a photo but then leave you alone"



because I thought it would help me to understand things here. Nowadays a lot of foreign players have satellite dishes that enable them to watch the same programmes they used to at home. It might sound like a small thang, but if car make a difference to your accimatisation

Another aspect is getting to know the area. We had a baby at the time but we still made the effort to go the shops or into Newcastle city-centre know most people now warit a photo on their phone if they see a player somewhere, but that's not a lot to ask for From my experiences tans in the north of England might look for an autograph or shake your hand, but they'll usually leave you alone after that, his not like in some countries where fanatical fans will surround a player out in public.

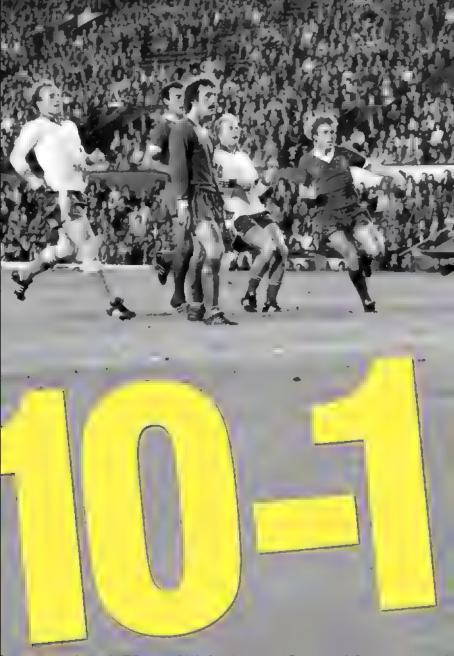
(Not selled quickly. initially at Nases

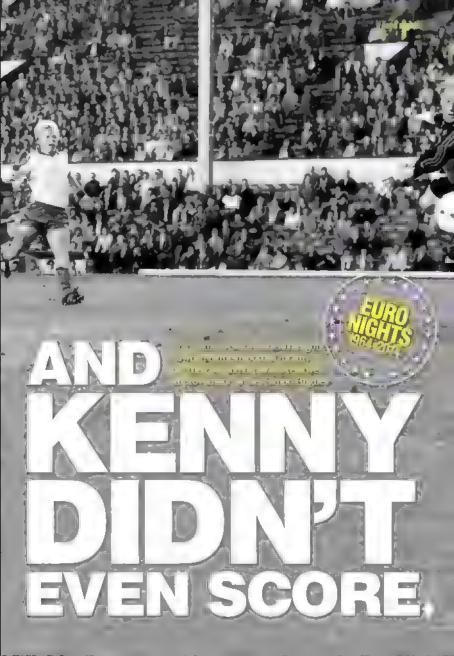
Singing in a player from abroad is usually a purit for any manager whatever the club. Some of them just don't work. Most people won't remember Newcastle signing a Serbian guy called Silvio Maric when (was there. He never settled

Sometimes they symply aren't good enough. On other occasions à can be family problems, his partner doesn't have the same immediate social orde as the player gets from going in to training each day. That can make things harder

But if a player who is good enough dipes make every possible effort to adjust to life in fingland, there is no reason with it can't go well. When left Germany never thought England would become my home, but it has,

Pollow Didl on Twitter @DlebmerHamenn







or tourists the town of Outu in Finland's under a fundamental entry point to uspland, when a Norwegian team from the Thomas, 250 miles inside the Arctic Cippe resided the JEFA Cup for the first time. Outu qualified as the most northerly outpost in European football.

Tronsco's emergence concided with the decline of Quib. Pallossura, a club known as OPS, one that all the beginning of the 1980s played in the European Cup twice. They lost to Everpool on both occusions, having secured a credible driaw in the first home lieg and a rightness detect in the second game at their Rapits Stadom 12 months size:

In 100 years time when people took back at our history the games against Everpool will still be recognised as our most famous rightls, says former DPS general interager. Milks Junitiment. The way it is at the moment, it is hard to imagine us playing in Europe again.

CPS had resen from the tower reaches of what was called Mestaruscarja, the top division of Finnsh bootball, in 1978 to become champions in successive seasons Their neward in season 1960/81 was a be against opponents. Liverpool FC, with experience of 101 European matchies since their list encounter

"Show what I could do against Liverpool and it could change my career"

with KR Reykjavik in 1964

Racids manager Bob Paistey, a person involved in all of those games as either a coach or manager was ottermined not to make it a hat-took of first round ceats in the Excopera Cup after otherals to Notifrigham Forest and Georgison two campagns. He'd described the foss to Brian Clough's Forest as "The biggest disappointment of my life" after missing out on a third successive European crown adding that the game in Finland "vid be on a poor pitch against a team of enthussaics partitimes"

The Liverpool Echn noted that for the first leg at Outr's Reath Stadium in September 1980 Ian Rush would appear on the bench for the first time since signing from Chester City the previous May. Even that represents a tremendous leap in his screen from comparative obsourity in the lower divisions: the newspaper commented.

and army lieutenants in the DPS team

was a Geordie. Keith Amissrong The midfielder who had moved to Finland on loan from Newcastle Jinited. Delevisor that the game could be a pletform for the rest of his professional title. "It can show what can do against a seam fixe Liverpool it could change my whole career." Amistrong was ecompanied by Glaswagen hugh Smith swell as 9 (Baswagen Hugh Smith as well as

five Finnish internationals. Twenty-

THE TOP TEN





ypar-old sweeper Jeo Houtsonen was regarded as the key man and speculation at the time linked him with moves to Germany and Italy This could be my chance. he wondered

According to the Eaho, Houtsoners and his defensive colleagues, operated a well-poished offside trap on the night of the first leg in Finland a Irap which Liverpool's forwards fell into no fewer than 19 times. Atthough Terry McDermott curted Jiverpool ento a 15th-minute lead, the unknowns Irom Dulu equalised through Seppo-Puotiniemi with 10 minutes to go and forced an unlikely draw. At the final whistle, fans streamed onto the pitch and held the home players aloff as If they were European champions. "This was a major fillip for Finnish loctball," Juntunen says, "Nobody





believed it was possible. We partied well into the night

Despite the result. Juntunen still insists that the aim in the second leg was merely to keep the score down. "But that didn't happen, If was e disseler." OPS's 10-1 meuling at Anfield stands as a record defeat for a Finnsh team in European competition

If certainly wasn't a lootball game Echo, as hal-tricks from McDermott and Graeme Souness were assisted by lurther goals from David Fairclough (two) Sammy Lee and Ray Kennedy Paisley described their opponents as "farcical." adding that he couldn't believe that he wasted sleep over their following the first leg, while Juntanen recalls the feeling of desparation: "We were lour-nil down at half-time. I was praying that there would be a floodlight failure or something to save us for the second half. But that didn't happen either !

Although Liverpool struggled by their own standards in the domestic league that sesson, aventually linishing lifth, the victory over OPS propelled them in Europa, with Alan Kannady's strike enough to beat Real Madrid

"Nobody believed that draw in the first leg - we partied all night"

1-0 in the final, held in Paris A bad start to the following season suggested the Reds might find it difficult to find success in the league again, losing to both ipswich Town and Wolves in the opening weeks without sooning. But after their demolition of OPS a year before, Bob Paisley so the Echo mused, could have sent his reserves to Finland with an untroubled mind when Liverpool drew another inp to Lapland at the draw in Zurich Amstrond, who'd now made his move to OPS permanent warned that the pitch at the Raati was even worse than last year

Again Liverpool strugglod with the conditions and only a Kenny Daigksh opal with six minutes to go separated the sides going into the return at





Antield two weeks later. 'Despite our performance at home we weren't hopeful, says Juntunen.

A day before the second leg. Bit Shankly deed. The news plunged Merseyade into mourning. Chalmain John Smith described him as fan outstanding symbol of guts, determination and success who lought for the good name of his adopted dry a tevery opportunity.

White the Kop chanted Shenkly's name uverpoot ratiled home seven goals on the right. This time they arrived from McDermott (Not Dalglish, Lawrenson, Rush Ray Kennedy and David Johnson

"To lose 10-1 and 7-0 at Liverpool was really bad for us. concludes Juntonen. But even Bayen Munich or Juveritus would not have relished the idea of facing uverpool in the first.

"To face Liverpool twice in two years - how unlucky could you be"

round one year after another We must have been the unluckest dub in Europe.

OPS have never played in Europe since. After finishing such in their diomestic loogue in 981 they suffered several relegations, and by 1984 they were struggling to avoid demotion to the uspland ameteur leagues following financial difficulties White Juntional balance players for White Juntional balance players for white Juntional balance players for the players the players for the players for the players the player

FOOTBALL IN FINLAND

Out, hes from frootball clubs, AC Out, play in Misconer, Finland's equivalent, of the Second Division white PC OPA are in Kalktonen (the Third Division) song with Out, Lustineser and Out, Palliciseur's Finland's strongest lasm, however are in the capital only where HUK have won five Pelidicae/light titles in succession. HUK are the best-run club in the country. says purmaist Egan Rehardandor. They have more than 1,000 players in their junior ranks, they have the pick of the players in Finland and have more sponsorahip money than anyone else."

Having been intocked out of the UEFA Champions League in the qualifying rounds by APOEL Noosea of Cyprus, this sesson HJK are competing in the Europa usegue. In the group stages their opponents are FC Bruges, FC Coperhagen and Torino.





instigating the club's demise. It has a "who with the promise of big wages were quick to move to Norway and Sweders". Finnish-based journalist Egan Richardson barleves CPS's problems are common with many clubs in the country.

Since 1990 alone, there have been nine different champions of Visilikausiiga the reformed version of Mestarusiasing, While this may be existing and means the competition avoids outcome site those levelled got the English Premian League for being too predictable in lems of contestants at the top and of the table, it also reveals fave.

"Team's reach success and disappear very queutly. Richardson says if its true that a lot of players move abroad tino soon when they have achieved comparatively very little apart from Sami Hyypa of course and this in part is what red to problems at OPS.

There is not enough money in Finnish lootball for clubs to lisep their players and improve standards, even in relation to Sweden and Norway where clubs in those leagues enjoy far greater resources. As soon as a half-decent young player has a good season they move to one of the other Scandingvain Leagues and this means that the infrestructure and this means that the infrestructure. esh't there to meantain a competitive professional league where learns are built over years and it's more stable. One season a learn may win the league and they years leter they are narrowly avoicing relogation."

The problems in Finnish domestic flooring have meanly into glerm implications for OPS With 130,000 inhabitants. Out is the most populous and important city in northern Fritand Culturally it is recognised as a place oil 21st century Finnish expressionism. Many writers, artists and musicians reside in the city. A variety of concerts, nock, classical and juzz as well as other cultural ovents such as the Aur Gutza Vorid Championishps.

'Oulu suffers though because it is so far from anywhere etse," continues "Blichardson adding that it is located 380 miles north of Helsinki with temperatures regularly dropping to

"Oulu tends to suffer because it's so far from anywhere else here"

ROUND BY ROUND

1980/97 Europeen Cup 19 12 Oulu 1 (Puotinemi) Uverpool (McDernott) 19 22 Liverpool 0 (Souriess 3. McDernott 3. Jee, Kerinedy, Fairolough 2) Oulu 1 (Americong)

1961/632 Europeans Cup 1R 1L Oul. 0 Exerpool 1 (Dalgish) 18 2L Everpool 7 (Dalgish) NcDermot 2. R Kennedy Johnson, Rush, Jawanson) Oulu 0

minus 10 in the winter. It makes if an inhospitable place and although it is great for ice-hockey. It is no place for football."

Last sesson Oulu Palloseura finished ninth in Viktorien the second thereof Finish flootball and were relegated to Karkonient, a competition divided between three zones southwest, southeast and north. Although there are hopes of an instant return to the second ber of Finnish lootball inviting is guaranteed.

"In Kakkonen, there are so many derives and evely game is a fight." Junturier says. "Things will only get better with hard work and a bit of financial investment."



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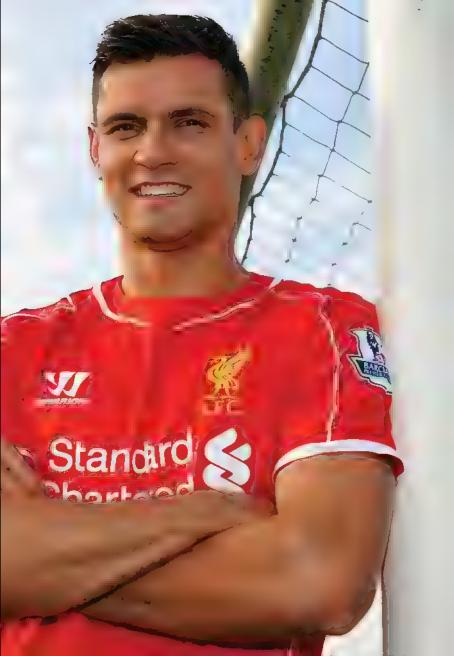
Dejan Lovren is not only a cultured central defender – he has wisdom beyond his years, as John Hynes discovers

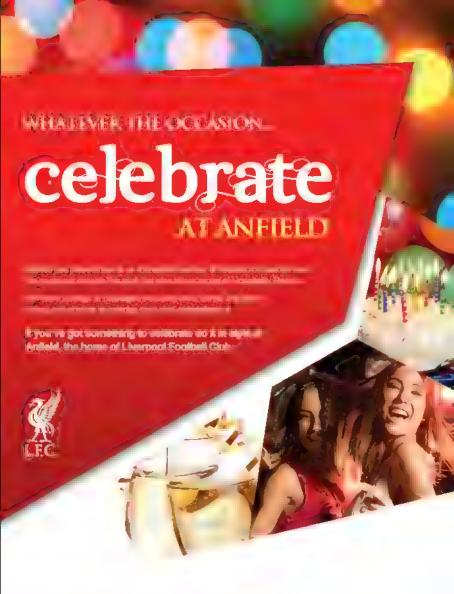
and work, nonslop effort, sheen determination to improve. The same themes crop up regularly duning conversations with Liverpool FC's Croatian centre-back, Dejan Lowren.

Despite being an international footballer who featured in the World Coup finals, he appears to be someone who is never happy with the standard he is reached. He has a relemines deame to get better if probably comes from his parents, he reasons.

"They are workaholics. All their lives they've been busy. Even now my dad still wants to work. He doesn't want trioney or anything else from me."

Lovison, 25, sees that same desire and dedication present in his younger brother Dayor. "My parents are strong characters and they've definitely passed that on to us. My brother is 16, a left-footed winger who plays on the right. He's just signed a professional contract with Dinamo Zagneth. It means a lot to him and all of us. 1'd love to play with or against him one day although I might be very old if or when that





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happens. If he keeps working and improving as he has been he can become very good."

With an upbringing during which the importance of hard work was regularly reinforced. Dejan probably recognised a kindred spirit in Brendan Rodgers. The Jisterman is enother individual who regularly preaches the rewards that industry and application will bring.

The manager's methods and encouragement among the squad have been proven too, with players such as Daniel Sturidge Philippe Coutinho. Raheem Sterling and Jordan Henderson all undoubtedly developing their game under his fulblade. The style of football was also something that appealed to Lövren when, after an impressive season 2013, 14 with Southampton, he was considering leaving the South Coast during the summer

"I'm someone who always wants to play the ball on the ground when a s possible. I'm not a player who wants to just look it long think lootball is a game to play properly d's not just about kicking the ball anywhere I'm glad Brendan has seen that in me and brought me in to help the team. to play that way

"I want to play the ball on the ground - it's not about kicking it anywhere"

Alongside that ball-playing ability is a love of physical battles that makes Lovren a prototype for the modern-day centre-back: When asked about the rugged element of competing with powerful strikers on a weekly basis his verdict is. If like it. love that passion in the English game. I'm a defender who likes to make contact with opponents. But I'm not an aggressive detender who will go in to make brutal challenges."

Centre-back is undoubtedly one of the key positions in any side those who fill the role need to maintain the highest standards if success is to be enjoyed. When the team is under pressure in a game it can often be the man in the middle of the backfour who is required to hold things. together. That's a burden some would



understandably shy away from covrem fully embraces it. "Lahvays have. I've always liked responsibility like being an organiser in the team. don't know why that is. Maybe feet older than actually arru

His willingness to take charge or address an issue was demonstrated early in the season. As one of three new detenders alongside Spanish full-backs Alberto Moreno and Javier Manguillo - ha was quick to realise that good communication at the back needed to be a priority. It spoke to Brendan about it. When you have so many new players it's important to get t right. That's not easy when some of the tack are still learning the language but they'll pick it up quickly

Communicating with leflow centre-back Mamadou Sakho has been a lot more straightforward. thanks to Lovren's three-and-a -half seasons at Lyon. The been speaking to him in French sometimes, one minute French and one minute. English," he laughs

While the bedding-in process for

"I've always ked to be an organiser in the

Lovren and the seven other players. who arrived in the summer is ongoing, it's inevelable there might be a setback along the way "Of course everyone can make a mistake. We need to learn from it and not repeat them. Nobody wants to make a mistake, but the start of the season is probably the better time to do so because you can still rectify it. You don't want to make them near the end (of the season) when games are vital

"For all of usit's important to adapt quickly. It's been easier for me because was in the Premier League with Southampton for one year [before I came here] I adapted to





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"It's not easy to adapt but our new signings are all intelligent"

England quickly and I know that the players who have come here from Spain, Portugal. Germany or Italy will attack as soon as they can. It's not easy to play exactly as you did in a different league

However, they are all intelligent guys and good players. Having so many games in the different competitions will help them with the process.

Spending time in his company allows you to quickly see why Lovren was brought to the club. There is a calmness about him that must offer alonoside him al Melwood on a daily basis. He takes his time to think about questions before replying. And, while the mention of conceding goals might with the subject in a relaxed manner "It happens, that's football. Anything can happen in football

With his family lorded to leave warfor: Yugostavia for Germany when he was still a child, he is able to put what. occurs on the field into perspective He never seems to get carried away when the team wins or too downbest after a deteat. Whatever the result, he knows there is always more work to do Again that's something he's keen to emphasise when asked about what the Reds can achieve in 2014/15.

"We have potential," he declares before pausing to consider his reply some more. "I didn't come here just to play. he continues, "I came to Liverpoor to win something and Ethink we can win something. From what five seen in my first few months here the manager the team and the whole atmosphere around the club - I think we can have a great season. We rust need to work hard to make it happen.

Não Kranjcar Formerly with Portsmouth and Toltenham, the attacking midfielder was recently reunited with former Spurs boss Harry Redknapp for the third time where the latter was appointed OPR manager Prior to returning to London, Niko had been with Dinamo Kieu



Nikica Jelavic A goalscorer for Everton against the Reds in the 2012 FA Cup semi-final at Wembley the striker's two-year spell at Goodison Park ended tost January and he's now with fellow Prem team Hull City



Previously in the Prem: Slaven Billic (West Ham 1996-97 Evertori 1997-00): Igor Biscari (Liverpool 2000-05). Alen Bolosic (Middlesbrough 2000-03); Vedron Cortuka (Manchester City 2007-08; Tottenham 2008-12). Eduardo (Arsenai 2007 10); Ivan Klasnik (Bolton 2009-12): Luka Modno (Tottenham 2008-12), igor Stimac (Derby County 1995-99; West Ham 1999-01); Davor Suker (Arsenal 1999-2000; West Ham 2000-01).





Liverpool Ladies mudfielder Amanda Da Costa previews her team's UEFA Women's Champions League bow

think as a society in general we rend to have a fear of the unknown There are many obstacles to face when you think about an unknown that lies ahead of you, many of them psychological. How do you prepare for something that you have yet to expenence? Not physically that is the easy part! But mentally how do you ligure out how you are going to solve an equation with so many variables and unknown values? I've never been good at maths so won't by to compare this to some sort of mathematical equation, but you get the idea!

As I sait at Artifield watching the men's team take on PFC unobjoortes. I was in the presence of what I would be experiencing in only a few short weeks unerpool operand they 2014 UEFA Chairmpions useque campaign against. Chairmpions operand to experience a dangerous opponent considering it was their first-ever appearance in the group stages of the Chairmpions useque, which in turn held no expectations and gave them freedom.

As unerpool Ladies prepare for our Champons Laegue dobut jon Wednesday 8 October] I sat there magrining my own team as undogorets against a more seasoned continental team in Unicopings. Whate am always rooting for a Radis working the market seasoned working the seasoned supposing in their first Champons under their first Champons under their seasoned extremely difficult to break down while also editibiling a great joy and excitement.







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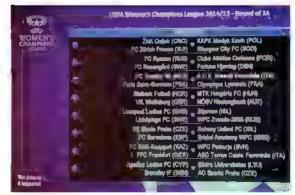




"The team from Bulgaria showed no fear - and neither will we"

when pushing numbers forwards. Having been saved by the woodwork once and denied by Smor Mighalet on a separate occasion, they were by no means the underdogs on the evening which awas me a sense of confidence moving into my own first Champions League experience.

Arryone in the women's football community whom I have spoken. to about unknownes has only had high praise for the Swedish side. As newcomers to the tournament





this year, we are placed in a unique position. While many have high expectations for us given our stellar league-winning season in 2013. am expecting us to go into our first metch (at our own home of the Select Security Stadium) with the same sense of urgency and freedom as we did when we started our FA Women's Super League campaign in 2013 as funderdogs

We were a brand new side last season, with many character-building opportunities through the course of the campaign, as we were laped with the challenge of playing and becoming friends and team-mates with new players from all over the world Not only did we embrace the different personalities among the squad but we flourished and grew stronger as the season progressed

WHO ARE UNKOPING**5**7

The team from southern Sweden were formed in 2003 and have one lop-flight title to their name. finishing as champions in 2009 Last time round, 2010/11, they progressed the Champions League quarter-finals. They THE RESERVE THE PARTY NAMED IN out on away-goals to Arsenal.

The Swedish Cup holders were somewhat fortunate to take their place in this season's competition. They finished champions Rosengard and runners-up Tyreso FF But the latter had to renounce their place in the tournament due to economic problems. Lankopings look their place.



Towards the end of the season when the pressure at the top of the lable was a its closest in history we never swayed from our strengths as a unit, and were able to prove to everyone who didn't think we would make it that it was tring to believe in Liverpool Liverpool.

I've atways been a believer that great teams create their own luck in linding a way to win football matches



"Being on the brink of something new and great is so exciting for Liverpool"

I huly heal that given this opportunity of compating in the LEFA Women's Champions League, we will have the chance to prove that we are a great team to the whole of Europe After all this is why we play this game! The motivation is to compete against the best and to show up to training every day to prove our worth to ourselves and our peers.

Being on the brink of something new and great is a very sucting time for the Liverpool community. Tor both the men and women's game. White I may never know eractly what lies

the uncertainty of the future, can only hope that both myself and my learn will channel such nervous energy into every game we play. Having nerves and a small amount of fear is what makes champions tick. leeling the langles in your fingerbps as you line up in tront of your legs shake with the introducing violence of your first touch on the patch is pure adrenatine.

can feet if as write this column, just thinking about it. Have no doubt, we will all be feeling if when we take to the field for the start of our European adventure.

CATCH THE

Uverpool Lattles' first match in European football will take place at the Select Security

Wednesday 8 October with a 7 45pm lick-off Tickets will be priced at 55 for adults and 52,50 for children and concessions. They can be purchased in advance at www.liverpooffc.com/ladlesticities or at the hamsalies on matchday.



MADE FOR LIVERPOOL



Reporting on the young Reds Neil



s a reporter with Sky Sports I cover a lot of matches in the Championship League One and League Two If allows me to keep an gye on some of Liverpool's young players out on toan.

This season Jordon libe is at Derby County Joan Textera is at Brighton & Hove Albion and Brad Smith is at Swindon Town They all face different challenges at clubs with different aspirations

A loan spell can make a young player grow up. When you're in the reservo team of the Under-18s, you are in a comfort zone. Everything is done for you. As soon as you leave that and enter a first-team dressingroom, you've got to find a way to survive. You have to appreciate duckly that for the time being you are not a Liverpool player You are a player of the club you are representing. You have to five and breathe that club

It's no good thinking about Liverpool. believing you are going back there and everything is going to be okay just because you are on a decent deal that lasts a few more years. I think that's where some loan players have failed in the past. When you leave Liverpool temporarily you start from scratch You can't just turn up at the loan olub and expect to be in the team. You have to earn that right by winning the respect of the drassing-room as well as the manager and the supporters.

If you go there with a big-time attitude you'll soon get found out. You quickly appreciate that opposition players see you as a larget. They expect you to be good so they try even harder to stop you. That should be a challenge any player reishes. You should want to prove you are good. that you can influence a competitive game that really matters.

"For the time being you have to live and breathe your new



Brad Smith appears to have settled very quickly at Swindon. The reportscoming back are positive. He's playing every game at left-back for a learn that is competing at the lop end of the league table. Clearly his attitude has been spot-on in training. Otherwise a lower-league manager isn't going to take the risk in selecting him.

Teixeira has scored a few goals at Brighton, a team now managed by Sami Hyypia a Liverpool legend Brighton have been in the play-offs in the last two seasons. It is going to be very hard to achieve that this time. round with a reasonable turnover of players during the summer. So 4 will be interesting to see how Joaq deals with the expectations of the fans who might be disappointed in the team if il doesn'i go as well as it has done in the recent past. When went on loan to West Harn, the fans expected us to bounce back from the drop. The same thing happened much rater at Sheffield. Wednesday Mentally being in such situations aids your development if you approach it in the night way

the meanwhile finds himself in one of the Championship's best devail Jennes, (right) to Belinden Town belown passing teams in Derby. They're very entertaining to watch and have a chance of going up automatically Yet Steve McClaren has a reasonably settled team 50 Jordon will have to work very hand to get into the starting XI. You can't take anything for granted:

Elsewhere Andre Wisdom is now playing for West Brom. His progress-in theory, be line most interesting because he's spent time in the Chempionship with Derby lest season. and is now in the Premier Jeague. playing games week-in, week-out. Each time he's gone out or loan. he's made the step-up. Hopefully by next season he'll be ready to steo into Liverpool's first team

I sent Andre a leid when he agreed the deal at the Hawthorns, telling him that he'd enjoy working under Alan Invine, the coach that got the bast out of me. At Sheffield Wednesday he had some brilliant ideas and liencyed training every day. It'll be a lough season for him but I'm cartain he'll return to Liverpool a better player

Follow Neil on Twitter @NeitMellor33







The bit at the back for Liverpool FC's legions of fans at home and all over the world...



81 The Road to Istanbul



87 Liverpool gets lyrical



88 Markovic training tips



90 New LFC gear to wear

ENIONTH AHEAD

The Real deal

III C & UEFA Champons usigue campage holds pill with the migring champions in town on 22 October Matchiday three will see Cristiano Ronaldo. Garet Bale James Roadiguez and company in u4 for a much-anticepad fature Former Liverpool full-back Alvaro Arbefoa should also be in the travelling party for use Blancos. The teams have met three times in the competition with the Reds coming out on top on each occasion. The first fecture came in the Reds coming out on top on each occasion. The first fecture came in the 1881 fines in Paris with Alan Kennedy.

"The teams have met three times - each with a Reds victory"

setting the issue to help Liverpool. It the trophy for the third time. In February 2009. Yosa Benayoun's goal gave Liverpool a 1-0 van in the Bemabeu, before the Reds thrashed the Spanaids in the return leg on a memorable night at Amfield. Staven Gerrard scored wice (night) with his goals bookended by strikes from Fernando Torres and Andrea Dossens in a 4-0 thumph.







BIRTHDAY REDS

Bruce Grobbelser 5 - on 6 October Chris Lawler 7 - on 20 October Roy Exers 6 on 4 October Samil Hyppis 41 on 7 October Samil Hyppis 41 on 7 October Lamy Lloyd 66 on 6 October Clem Hysen 56 on 6 October Willie Stevenson 75 on 26 October Lad Brus 53 on 20 October Lad Brus 53 on 20 October Lad Brus 53 on 20 October Rad Willie Stevenson 75 on 20 October Rad Willie Stevenson 75 on 21 October Rad William Stevenson 75 on 20 October Rad William Stevenson 61 on 21 October David Johnson 62 on 23 October



Anniversaries

21 years since Robbe Fowler scored all five goals in a SPL Jaegue Cup with over Fulham on 5 October ZF years since Ray Houghton prined the allow on 19 October 40 years since Pful Neal signed for the Reds on 9 October 92 years since Harry Chambers scored a hat-first in a ST I detry win over Eventon at Anfald on 7 October 122 years since the legendary Matt McQueen and his brother Hugh made their debuts in JPC is first FA Cup to at Affald on 2 October



Reds will have **Hull to play**

Liverpool's third Bardays Premier League focure of the month sees them host Hull City at Anfield on Saturday 25 October Steve Bruce's Tigers look three points off the Reds in Humberside tast season but averpool started 2014 with a 2-D win over Hull at Anfield thanks to goals from Daniel Agger and Lus Suarez City were busy on transfer deadline day, recruiting lour newcomers. Mohamed Diame Gaston Famirez, Hatem Ben Arla and club record signing Abol Hemandez They joined the six previous summer additions of Robert Snodorass. Jake Livermore, Andrew Robertson. Harry Maguire. Michael Dawson and ex-Red Tom ince





Book your Brucie tickets!

Legendary Liverpool goalkeaper Bruce Grobbelear will be the guest speaker at a special Arrifeld event on Friday 28 November and tickets are now on sale

During Bruce's offering 14-year career with LFC he appeared 628 times for the Reds. His safe hands contributed to the club winning so First Division titles, three FA Cups and three Leanue Cuos and his acrobatic penalty heroics led to Liverpool

winning the 1984 European Cup. The evenuing will be hosted by Liverpool legend David Johnson and will include red-carpet arrival, photoopportunities with the European Cup and arrival drink a three-course meal and access to a fully-licensed bar Tickets are priced at £65 and can be purchased by calling D151 263 7744 or via the club's official website. www.fiverpooffc.com.

SIG MONTH

Liverpool Ladies are set for a busy October The FA WSL season comes to a close with garnes at Arsenal on 5 October and at home to Bristoi Academy on 12 October (2pm) Ether side of those fixtures comes the Reds' bow in European competition. Matt Beard's team take on Swedish side Linkopings in the LIEFA Women's Chemoions League Round of 32. The first leg will be held at the Select Security Stadium in Widnes on Wednesday 8 October (5.30pm) with tickets priced at £5 for adults and £2.50 for concessions. The return leg will be staged in Sweden on Thursday 16 October The winners District States of the St between icelandic side Staman and Russians 2vezda-2005 in the last 16.









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the latest exclusive interviews and features from inside the club, as well as action from every first-team, Under-21 Under-18 and Jiverpool Ladies match. We'll also bring you daily news, the latest episodes of #LFCWORLD and a brand new leature for this season. The Road to Istanbul completely free of charge

You'll also get exclusive footage from Metwood and live press conferences before every game uninterrupted commentary once the match kicks of and the latest reaction after the final



Whistle. Another exclusive feature All Time XI asks a former Red to select the best eleven players he ever played with or against. Already we've heard which Italy legend asked John Aldridge for his shirt, the former Red that narrowly missed out on Jason McAteer's teem, and a Phil Thompson XI that includes ten of his ex-Anfield. team-makes. Look out for a new apisoda every Friday

And there's more. Every month LFCTV GO will be bringing you a special feature-length video that can't be seen anywhere else. Ahead of last month a Anfield derby for Instance, Robbie Fowler spoke indepth about playing in the derby and foolied ahead to that latest encounter All this and much more on LFCTV GO If you're not signed up stready head to www.Rverpool.com/video and receive 12 months for the price of uet 10!

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WARRIOR

Reds fan and MND campaigner Mark Maddox talks through the last six months with Aiden Cusick

a been an action-packed surnmer for Mails Macdox whom we last caught by with or March Since then, the lifelong Beds fan and former Atrincham player has competed in the Landon Marathon been mylled to Metwood for an altimonon with the manager and first feam squad and was named the Liverpool Echo's community sports personally of the year all white contenuing his bettle with Motor Neurona Disease (MND).

"My protession ended a white ago. I've got to keep busy somehow says Mark 41 But busy' is a bit of an understatement where he is concerned particularly when raising a fork to his mouth as the equivalent of trying to lift a 10kg weight.

That is one of MINIO's many unusual servicions, another of which is the strong from behind the loc-Bucket Challenge that took over the internet of the instrugation of follow sufferer Peira Frades from America (where the conclition is known as Amyotrophic Lustran Sciencespor or ALS).

Participants are encouraged to filtre themselves pouring an key bucket of water on their heads, upload if to a their peers to do the same, all in the

their peers to do the same, all in the cause of charity. "The idea is that the impreent the ice hits you, you freeze, and that is the whole civil 24 hours a day living with MMC." Mark explains. "The Americans were the first to do it and it's lists snowballed since then."

A number of LFC players, including Steven Gernerd. Daniel Sturnidge and Philippe Coutrinto, braved the bucket in August, while Brendan Rodgers docucated his own attempt to Mark leaving the main himself feeting. absolutely made-up. I was surprised when he mentioned my name but I shouldn't have been flet's a genuine person who connects with not just lans furt people in general and he took his challenge like a man ha squeets or screams, suit shook.

The Reds hose read Mark's story in the Juleppool FC matchday programme for last season's Primier League Riture with Tottenham on 30 March And alter being colleand made the stadoun by Mark's best patien Porties for a matograph's Rodgers told time about the impact if if had on everyone altered of the cating.

Ian recalls—opened the programme and said, "Binnoten, can you sign this for Mark?" He goes. "Fell Mork that he inspired me today." (spoke to the lads about him. I want to get him in at the training-ground at the training-ground."

The manager was true to his word. Mark explains, "I got a lext from Mike Marsh, who I used to play with, at the Spurs garris saying the gaffer wants you to come in. It was unipelievable, honest to God

The Party of



A New weeks later Mark his matte fair and their families were meeting the bose in person. "Sometimes when people meet me they can be a bit furnity," says Mark. "Not in a bad way but it a very where they don't really know what to say because they know my assistance but therefore wasn't like that he like temproped it.

I normally make people feel at ease straighteney by making a loke. But colon't have to with him, he was that down to earth

In fact, much of the laughter that day came couriesy of the players and at the expense of one in particular Mark speaks of the buzz around the club at the time of his visit approaching the final weeks of last season, describing the atmosphere as "senous but light-hearted. After an intense morning of training the players wound down with a game of prossber challenge with a twist. They were taking turns trying to hit the bar and THE RESERVE AND THE PARTY OF THE the goal-line," ian explains "Suarez whacks one and hits Coultring s backside! All of a sudden Brendan appears, turns round and opes. That's for you. Mark!' He was overlooking. them, howking with laughter

For hall-back use Flangager watching Mark may with his herces at Methwood was scinetizing of a rote-reversal Thirdeen years ago white playing semi-professionally for Altimothem, Mark returned one day to his amateurocks to check on a few former teammates at local side Ganada FC. One of them, John Flangager semior was playing that day and brought along his son. "Young Jonathon was only about seven or eight, His dad told him I'd signed for Ally and to get my



autograph! It was a bit longue-in-cheek on Flanno senior's part, but he was the

first person who ever asked for it But mingling with the stars at Metwood was only the start for Mark Shortly after he received a letter mixing him along to the Cverpool Echo and-of-season avends, where he was named Community Sports Personality of the Year

"I was supprised." I didn't think I'd done that much to eam it, but when I saw the mortage was like yeeh. I have done all that I kan Kannedy presented new with it. Ronnie Moran was there too and Rushe was honoured to be among Liverpool's sporting effer so many of them have supported me in my quest to raise awareness for MIND. That's why in my eyes, the is the best oilly in the world."

Mark with Stante and le the programme (below)

There's always more to come where Mark is concerned and most recently he's conspetiad in a half-marathon in Warnington. He managed an impressive 16 miles in condon before having to withdraw. It is diet unweit prior to the race and suffered in the intense heal that day. "The night before in our hotel kinkel is was coins."



MARK: THE

Dec 2010 diagnosed with MND April 2012 skydives to mise and the Albert May 2012 releases the album Shoot the Moon with his band Last of a Dying Breed June 2012 runs the Liverpool 10k Oct 2012 runs the Liverpool Marathon Nov 2012 achieves boxing coaching level licence April 2013 runs the London Marathon Mary 2013 was the Non-League Paper's Lifetime Achievement Award Sept 2013 helps launch Football v. MINID campaign and sets up blog to raise further awareness Dec 2014 releases second album Childhood Memories with Last of a Dying Breed Pais 2014 wins Brave Heart al the Liverpool Community Superstars Award April 2014 runs the London Marathon April 2014 JFC manager and first team sign the MNO Charter May 2014 wins Liverpool Echo Community Sports Personality of the Year June 2014 runs the Liverpool 10k Sept 2014 runs English Half-Marathon (Warrington)

to be tough. I had an infection in my peg-tube and without antibiotics I knew I'd have poison running through my body while I atlampted the 26.2 miles.

"I stopped (at 16 miles) because know it I'd have gone on it would have made things worse. I taler found out that someone had died after crossing the linish line. I realised then that I'd done the right thing."

But 16 miles turned out to be quite a poignerst landmark. After a lew calculations Markinealised trial, ance being diagnosed, he of amassed a lotal of 87 miles across vanous running events meaning that one more half-marathon would see him break the 100-mile mark. Hence the event in Wannington.

You could perhaps be forgiven for forgetting this man has a terminal muscle-wasting disease. When I has the uverpool Marathon two-anda-hall years ago, set out to just do one marathon, but my goal became to get the 100 miles.

No-one has ever done it before completed 100 miles with MND. It's a big thing for me personally to leave something behind Mark blogs at www.markmeddox. obulk and you can follow ham on Twitter @lastofadying 1.

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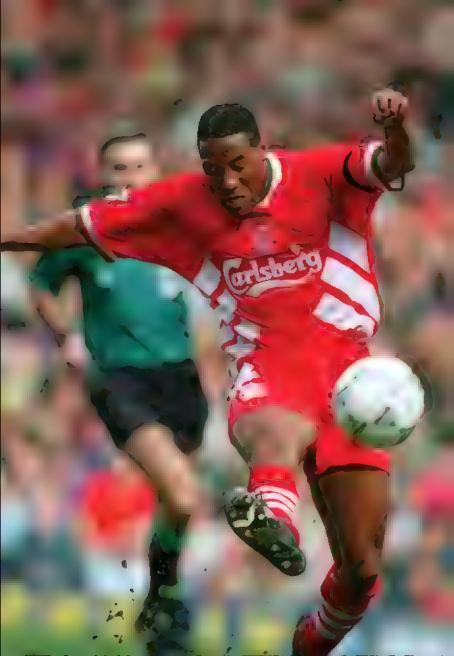


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weddings at Anfield



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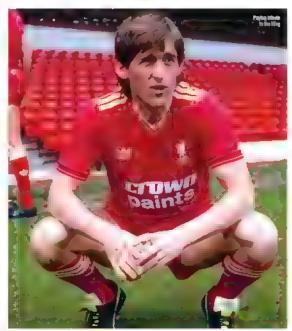
Award-winning Reds poet Ben is composing more verse about his beloved Liverpool FC

eds fan and award-winning poel Ben Wilkinson is composing a brand new anthology of verse dedicated to Liverpool Football Club a prealest players. Guardian book cribc Ben, who was featured in the magazine at the starf of the year recently published a book of poems entitled For Real. Kitted out in the policurs of LFC. the collection won the prestigious Poetry Business Competition, judged by University of Liverpool graduate and former Poet Laureate. Carol Ann Duffy it was also awarded the 2014 Northern Promise Award by arts organisation New Writing North providing a grant that has given 6en THE RESIDENCE PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF THE PA Kopite Sormets and commemorating legends from Bill Shankly to Kenny Daiglish, through to John Barnes and Steven Gerrard.

Ben says: "Two poems, called simply John Barnas and King Kenny, are the first in the sequence, also want to place these great players in the history of the political and social charges taking place in uverpool."

"I want to place these players in the history of the city and country at the time"





and the rest of the country at the time.

In the piece about Barnes I'm.

aiming to not lust approve his incredible ability and flar as a flootbeller but also the abuse and intolerance his suffered and in this great predit rose above. In the poem about ferniny I decided to focus on the Hillsborough tragedy as a way of highlighting how Quiglish supported the families. Internetive when first heard that he distanced all 95 funerals all one point, four in one day, which shuck me as an irmazing example of what the man, the olde and the oily shood for Mohing could explure better the sperind 1/20 if Newer Walk Alone."

Sen and his new collection on Twitter @GenWiko85.

King Kenny

Day breaks to heavy clouds over Antibeld Road, the Salvath beyond that echoing afternoon. Gates opened, the faitiful bring finners, wreaths, notes: ... siters, mothers, fathers weeping, placing them in the goalmouth, the eighteen-yard thus, past the half-way line. You it with for all the world it is moved. Then one man, making no fuse, step up, sits down two today bears, gifted by his lads a man who's performed miracles on this field, resurrected lapses. Who'll pay his respects to every one, not in duty's name, but love's. They supported Liverpool Football Cade.

It the sum of the Chief to support them."



Working with children and adults to help inspine positive change through sport – follow us on Twitten'

@LFCFoundation to keep up to date with the community team's projects and activities



Foundation family

Special guests galore for Liverpool FC Foundation programmes

inst-learn stars, both male and sensate plus a FIFA inpresentative have been enjoying and engaging with Everpool FC Foundation programmes in recent weeks. Reds new boy, azar Markovia and Ladies midfielder Amanda Da Costa attended one of the Foundation's community football sessions in

Wavetree The pair took part in a warm-up and shiels techniques driff with youngstess at their weekly obschining session at Wavartree Aquatios Centire Foundation coaches provide six sessions each week across three has sessions each week across three has not Wavetree Rennth and Arfeid Meanwhile Reds stars up Flanagan, Matha Hams and Ryan McLaughtin paid a visit for Foundation's "To see everyone at the camp having fun was really rewarding for me"

Respect 4 All summer camp at North Liverpool Academy to congratulate its local stars, all of whom were presented with certificates and LFC goodies by Jon Martha and Ryan Respect 4 All delivers free impairment-specific multi-sport classes to more than 200 children and adults in uverpool and Wirral every week Jon said: To see all the participants having funand enjoying their sports was really rewarding for me

And Ladies star Becky Easton was joined by FIFA enacutive opminidae member Moya Dodd at a Foundation lemale football showcase session at Antield Sports & Community Centre. attended by 30 young players from across Merseyside

Funded by the Premier League and Liverpool FC Foundation, the FA Girls Programme aims to increase access to high-quality football coaching. for females and increase overall engagement in the game. Mark Haig, Head of Operations at the Foundation. said. It was great to introduce Moya to our young participants. We are really proud of the provision we provide to lemales across Merseyside

Niyou are interested in registering. for future Liverpool FC Foundation activities or would like further information please contact Mcfoundation@liverpoolfc.com.







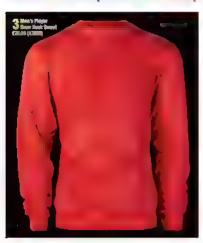






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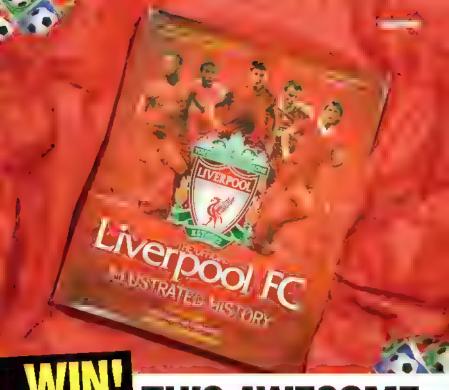




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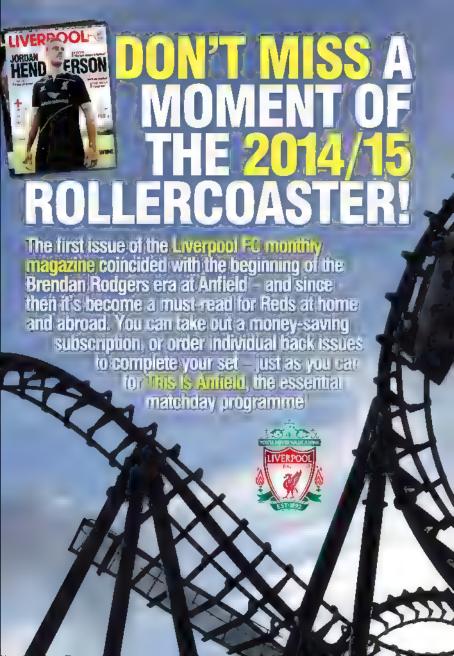
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Featuring a foreword by Brendan himself and po-written by Jeff Anderson and Stephen Done curator of the Antield Museum, it's available now for £25 from all good bookstores and www.carttonbooks.co.uk.

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Justaario Balotelli Justaaram



19 September

This is what happened to me when Thear it the first time in Anlield.



16 September

@stevengerrard | Yes | Good start guys! Thanks supporters! YOU WERE AMAZING!



5 September

Liverpool beach! Ahah nice arryway :-)



4 September

Good morning everybody! Good morning Liverpocococcoci!!!!



31 August

Congratulations to the capitan for his record of scoring in 16. consecutive years. #YNWA



Yesterday training:) head-tennis! Loll St.



29 August

LFC!

29 August LIVERPOOL Centre =



28 August Looking forward to play in

the Liverpool's lans warm support of Anfield!



27 August We were five



25 August @ionflan38 #laliana going to

sladium!



25 August YNWA! Come on Liverpool!

David Our new vice-captain can be an integral member of the IFC team for years to come



he appointment of Jordan Henderson as Liverpool's vice-captain shows what you can achieve in sport if you put your mind to it. He had a tough start to his career at the club but set's not forget he had barely turned 21 when he joined and he has proven to be a quick learner.

Kenny Dalgiish clearly saw something in Jordan to bring him to LFC for a reasonably big fee, and the lact he played him week in, week out showed that he had belief in him.

Given that he was so young when he arrived, he was always someone I thought would need time before we saw the best of him. It speaks volumes for the steps he's made that he is now one of the most important players in the team. Evidence of that came in

"He has shown a toughness to succeed here at this club"

those three games he missed through suspension at the end of last season, particularly the crucial Chelsea and Crystal Palace futures.

Being named vice-captain is a well-disserved from for him and also recognition of his potential. Time will tell but you really could see him being a future captain of both Liverpool and England. He could be a Steven Garrard-hype figure in terms of the influence he has on the learn.

When you look at Jordan now you can see that he definitely has leadenship characteristics. The players respect him and look to him on the pilich. He is still young but he's pretly experienced and can go out there and take the game by the scrull of the neck. Taking that responsibility so a big part of being a leader.

On the pilich he's got a tot going for him. His energy and work-rate are second-to-none, but his footballing brain has improved in the last couple of seasons too and I think working closely with Brendan Rodgers has had a lot to do with that.

Off the pitch he is impressive too. People talk a lot about mental strength and as a professional sportsman you Jordan on England daty

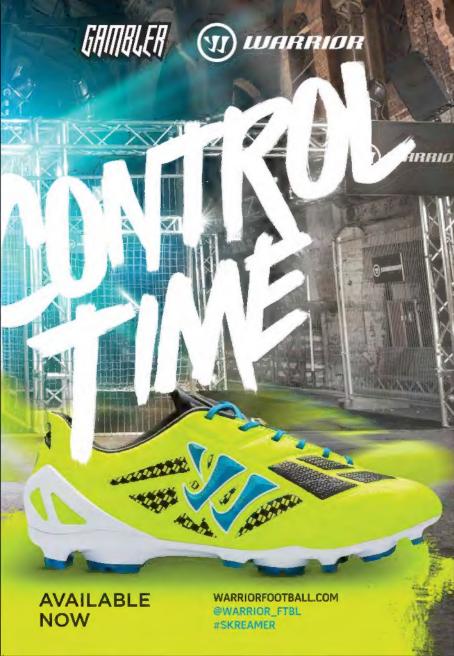
have to be able to deal with setbacks along the way. It was only a couple of years ago here was talk about him going to Fulham around the time were initial with Clint Dennipesy. Fortunately for Liverpool he stayed and hought hard, in doing that he's shown mental toughtees and a determination to succeed at this club because he believes he belience he realized.

There were plently of times in his early days here when he could have just rollled over and accepted that he might not be good enough for us, but he dich't. He believes in himself as a footballer and rightly so because he really is that good a player.

His rise to being an important player for club and country is testament to the work hat's put in and t believe he will be part of the backbone of Liverpool Football Club for many years to corne.

On a personal note, I have been making good progress after my hand injury and arm hopeful of being able to light again in December. We are putting the final details together but there should be an announcement about an opponent and venue soon.

Follow David on Twitter @DavidPrice_1



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